

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

New U.S. National Stage Application to Yoshiyuki MIYAMOTO

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for preparing a reactive graphite-like layered material, which is mono- or multi-layered material having a hexagonal main framework with chemical reactivity , from a graphite-like layered material referring to a mono- or multi-layered material having a hexagonal main framework comprising the steps of:

binding atoms having a dangling bond together with each other which are adjacent to a vacancy included in ~~a~~said graphite-like layered material, for reducing the number of dangling bonds in the vicinity of said vacancy to form an introducing site;

introducing a molecule or atom constituting the graphite-like layered material into the introducing site; and

generating a new bond between the introduced molecule or atom and the graphite-like layered material.

2. (currently amended): A process for preparing a reactive graphite-like layered material, which is a mono-or multi-layered material having a hexagonal main framework with chemical reactivity, from a graphite-like layered material referring to a mono- or multi-layered material having a hexagonal main framework comprising the steps of:

forming a vacancy in a graphite-like layered material;

reducing the number of dangling bonds in the vicinity of said vacancy by binding atoms adjacent to said vacancy together with each other to form an introducing site;

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introducing a molecule or atom constituting said graphite-like layered material into the introducing site; and

generating a new bond between said introduced molecule or atom and said graphite-like layered material.

3. (currently amended): The process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the step of forming ~~asaid~~-vacancy comprises the step of irradiating said graphite-like layered material with an electron beam.

4. (currently amended): The process ~~for preparing a reactive graphite-like layered material as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, wherein said step of forming an introducing site or said step of generating a new bond comprises the step of conducting annealing or photoexciting treatment to the graphite-like layered material.

5. (currently amended): The process ~~for preparing a reactive graphite-like layered material as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein said graphite-like layered material includes graphite.

6. (currently amended): The process ~~for preparing a reactive graphite-like layered material as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein said graphite-like layered material comprises mainly nitrogen and boron atoms.

7. (currently amended): The process ~~for preparing a reactive graphite-like layered material as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein said graphite-like layered material constitutes a side wall of a nanotube.

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8. (new): The process claimed in Claim 2, wherein said step of forming an introducing site or said step of generating a new bond comprises the step of conducting annealing or photoexciting treatment to the graphite-like layered material.

9. (new): The process claimed in Claim 2, wherein said graphite-like layered material includes graphite.

10. (new): The process claimed in Claim 2, wherein said graphite-like layered material comprises mainly nitrogen and boron atoms.

11. (new): The process claimed in Claim 2, wherein said graphite-like layered material constitutes a side wall of a nanotube.

12. (new): The process claimed in Claim 1, wherein said vacancy is formed in advance by means of irradiating said graphite-like layered material with an electron beam.